

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CULBERSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF VALERIE C. BECKLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate African American History Month, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Valerie Beckley, a resident of my community who recently passed away. Ms. Beckley was a daughter, a wife, a mother, an avid churchgoer, and a dear friend to many. She was a longstanding and active member of the Curey Tercentenary African American Episcopal Church.

Valerie and her family lived on the west side of Chicago during her formative years. One can say that they were pioneers of sorts. They were some of the first African Americans to live in their area. Valerie was one of the first 100 black students to integrate Austin High School in the 1960s. Even as a child, Valerie displayed exceptional leadership, and was the first black female chosen to become the captain of both the girls volleyball and basketball teams at Austin High School. Valerie grew up in a close, nurturing and bonded family formed by her parents—Mr. Larry and Mrs. Ollie Mae Mitchell.

Valerie attended and obtained a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Roosevelt University and, later on, a master's degree in Social Work from Loyola University.

On September 11, 1976, Valerie married Jerome Beckley, Junior, and they were blessed with two beautiful children—Shakir and Kamaria.

In 1979, Valerie became President and CEO of her family's company, the Lawndale Paper Supply, which was the only paper and janitorial wholesale supply company on the west side of Chicago. Here she honed her management and marketing skills and implemented both long- and short-range goals.

In 1986, Valerie became associated with the other love of her life, the Sickie Cell Disease Association of Illinois. Valerie assumed the role of camp director of the Bright Horizons Summer Camp. Later, she became a pro-

gram specialist, and in short order, she became totally immersed in the plight of people affected by sickle cell disease.

In 2002, when Howard Anderson—the founder and president of the Sickie Cell Disease Association of Illinois—decided to retire, he stated that he could find no better person to take over as president, and she did, devoting the rest of her life providing aid and comfort to sickle cell patients, raising money for services and working continuously to try and help find a cure for this dreadful disease.

For most of her 58 years on this Earth, Valerie C. Beckley's life was driven by her compassion to serve the marginalized, the underserved and the misrepresented. She became a dedicated leader and advocate whose passion for the welfare of others has helped numerous families in Chicago, the State of Illinois and within the broader context of the African Diaspora.

Mr. Speaker, Valerie represented to all of us who knew her the fact that one can give of oneself and not tire. She gave totally of herself to the end of her life, to the end of time for the benefit of others.

We all say thank you, Valerie.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BLUE DOGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor tonight with my fellow Blue Dogs, and we were just going to make some remarks and talk about the Blue Dogs' concern with fiscal responsibility in previous Congresses and in Congresses going forward.

Over the long haul, the Federal budget has been in a downward spiral with the national debt growing faster than the economy. With this grim fiscal outlook, it is more important than ever that Congress and the administration work together in a bipartisan manner to address the needs for long-term fiscal sustainability.

□ 2000

Back in this 1990s, under the administration of Bill Clinton and with the cooperation of the Congress led by the Blue Dog Coalition, PAYGO rules were put into statute, put into law that required that the Congress of the United States pay for that which they wished to spend. So no new spending could be appropriated and spent without the au-

thor or the party or the group that wanted to propose new spending finding a means or a place to cover the cost.

About 8 years ago, the PAYGO rules were abolished out of statute, and since that time and in the period of 8 years, the Government Accounting Office in the projections for 10 years out showed that the budget was estimated to have a surplus of \$5.5 trillion in the next 10 years. As I stand here today with my colleagues, we are now projecting an excess of \$10 trillion deficit. That's a \$15.5 trillion swing.

And if you actually looked at government accounting, or if you looked at accrual accounting rather than government accounting, you will find that—those of you that are in business out in this country will know that a \$56 trillion deficit projected is the real number.

Because of the deficits that exist in so many programs, entitlements and others, we have spun ourselves or spent ourselves into a hole that will take us quite a while to climb out of.

I have one grandson. His name is Jack, and he's 2½ years old. For Christmas, I got one of those video frames that changes the pictures out. And it is one of the greatest things that my family could have given me because Jack's there every day to remind me of the reason why I need to be here, why the Blue Dogs have continued their attack on the budget, why they have continued the march and the drumbeat of PAYGO and fiscal responsibility when neither side of our Congress would face up to the facts.

If in fact we are to leave them a good world, we need to face up, just like every American does, to the bills that confront us; and we can't spend more than we take in. We need to, as was done back in the 1990s, go back to statutory PAYGO, live within our means, make sure we have the money to pay for those things which are good for our country—not squander the future for our children and our grandchildren—but to make sure that their future has a potential to be a bright one, as mine was, because of my parents' and my grandparents' efforts during their time.

I would like to ask my friend, Congressman BARON HILL, to make a few comments.

Mr. HILL. I thank my friend from Louisiana for yielding me this dedicated time.

Fourteen days ago, Mr. Speaker, Barack Obama became President of the United States. And listening to some of my colleagues earlier in the evening, you would have thought by listening to them that the \$10 trillion deficit that we're now facing was created by President Obama within the last 14 days. And we all know that that is not true.

As a matter of fact, the largest budget deficits that we've ever had have, quite frankly, come under the presidencies of three Republican presidents: one in the 1980s, one in the 1990s, and this last President that we've had for the last 8 years.